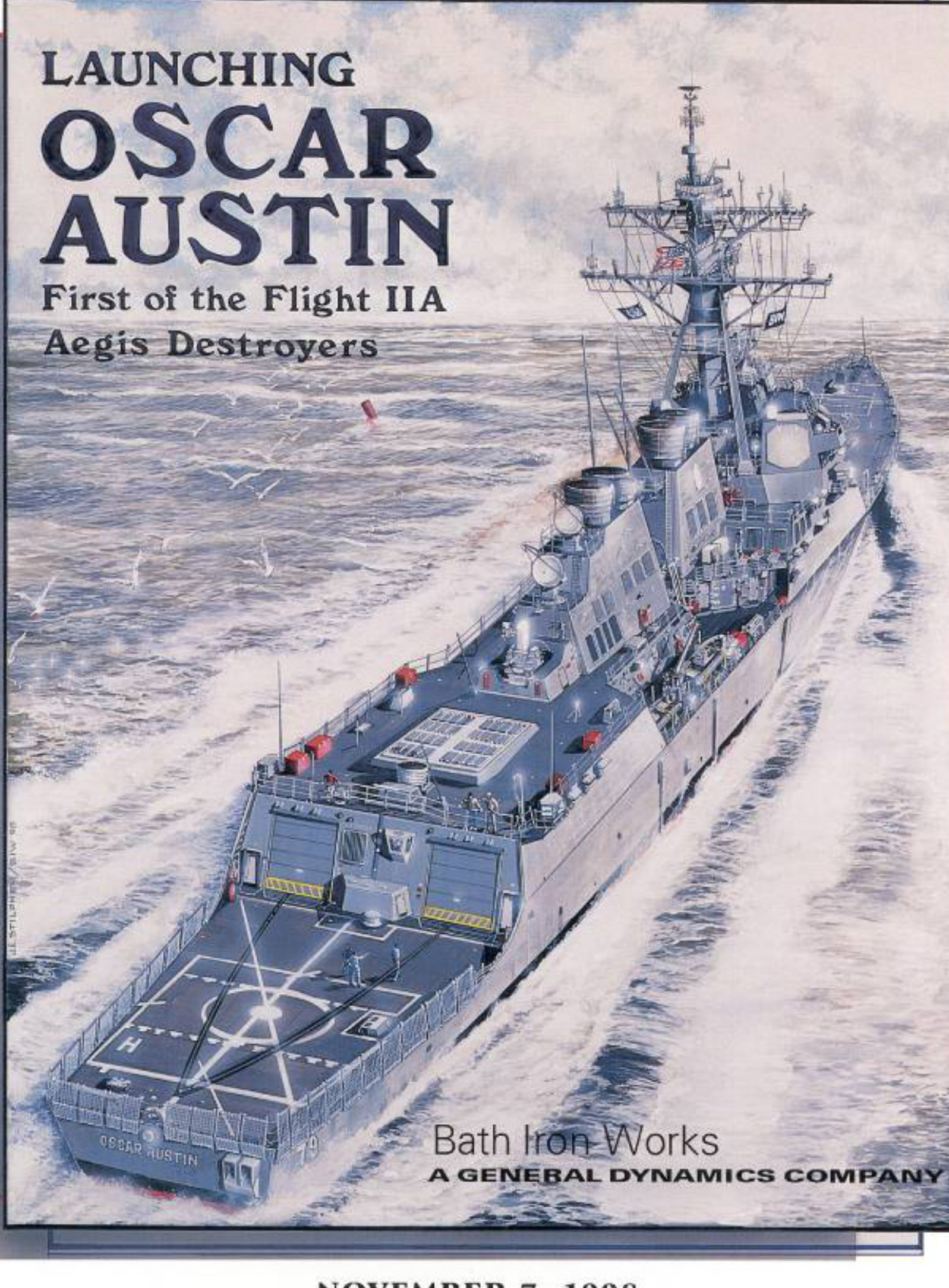


# LAUNCHING OSCAR AUSTIN

First of the Flight IIA  
Aegis Destroyers

ILLUSTRATION BY JIMMY KIM



Bath Iron Works  
A GENERAL DYNAMICS COMPANY

NOVEMBER 7, 1998





**SPONSOR**  
**Mrs. Dianne F. Reason**

**B**orn at Fort Devens in Ayer, Massachusetts, Dianne Fowler Reason was reared as an Army "brat." Firstborn to James D. Fowler, Jr., (Col. USA (Ret)-USMA '41) and Romaine L. Fowler, she and

brothers James D. Fowler, Jr., (USMA '67) and David L. Fowler (USMA '74) lived in many parts of the United States and abroad. Dianne's high school graduation took place on the island of Taiwan, where she was valedictorian of her class.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Dianne studied elementary education, graduating with distinction from the College of Education, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan.

While teaching second grade in Baltimore, Maryland, Dianne married newly commissioned Navy Ensign J. Paul Reason in 1965, at Annapolis, therein beginning more than three decades of employment in education and business, child rearing, Navy Volunteerism, official representation and travel.

Her daughter, Rebecca Reason, graduate of James Madison University, is an accountant. Her son, LT Joseph Reason (USNA), serves in USS SIMPSON (FFG-56). To date, the Reason family has moved twenty-seven times in permanent change of station (PCS) moves.

Despite the mobility of a Navy lifestyle, Dianne has found time to support Navy Family Members in many ways, in many places. Following years of personal support to the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, she served on the Board of Managers of the Relief Society and was twice decorated for Meritorious Service. She chaired the 82nd Navy Ball in Washington D.C.

For four years, she led the SURFLANT Scholarship Foundation as Executive Director and has served on public school advisory councils in San Diego, Norfolk, and Bremerton. Additionally, Dianne has been involved in numerous activities in support of schools, church, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Red Cross, Armed Services YMCA, Navy Ombudsmen and Navy Spouse and Wives Club.

Dianne F. Reason was awarded the Navy Meritorious Public Service Medal in 1996. She resides in Norfolk, Virginia, still supporting her spouse, the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet.



**MATRON OF HONOR**  
**Mrs. Mildred Austin**

**M**rs. Mildred Colston Austin was born and raised on a farm approximately seventeen miles east of Nacogdoches, Texas. She was the twelfth of James

and Willie Colston's thirteen children. Upon completing her public schooling in this rural setting, she met and married Frank Austin of Lufkin, Texas. The couple moved to Phoenix, Arizona, and began their family. The second of their six children, Oscar Palmer Austin, was born on January 15, 1948.

After residing in Phoenix for 32 years, Mrs. Austin chose to return to her home state of Texas, and now resides in Sandhill, Texas, thirteen miles east of Nacogdoches. She lives with her granddaughter, Monique E. Hart, who is assisting Mrs. Austin today as the Maid of Honor.



**MAID OF HONOR**  
**Miss Monique E. Hart**

**M**onique Evonne Hart was born on January 15, 1980, in Phoenix, Arizona. She moved to Sandhill, Texas, with her grandmother, Mildred Austin, in March of the same year. She completed

her public school education in Chirono, Texas, and is currently matriculating at Stephen F. Austin University at Nacogdoches, Texas. Her aspiration is to excel in the field of radio and television. She is currently working at the KLSB Broadcasting Network in Nacogdoches.

## PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

### *Admiral J. Paul Reason, USN*

**A**dmiral Paul Reason was born and reared in Washington D.C. His naval service began after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy with the class of 1965.

Prior to being trained in nuclear propulsion engineering, he served as Operations Officer in the destroyer escort USS J.D. BLACKWOOD (DE 219). Upon completion of training, he was assigned duties in the nuclear powered guided missile cruiser USS TRUXTUN (CGN 35) and participated in the ship's first deployment to Southeast Asia in 1968. In 1970, he earned a Master's degree in the management of computer systems.

Joining the nuclear powered aircraft carrier USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) in 1971, he deployed twice to Southeast Asia and Indian Ocean areas. After service as Combat Systems Officer, again in USS TRUXTUN, Admiral Reason became an assignment officer at the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

In late 1976, he was assigned as Naval Aide to the President of the United States. He served as aide to President Jimmy Carter until mid-1979. Subsequent duties included Executive Officer of USS MISSISSIPPI (CGN 40); Commanding Officer of USS COONTZ (DDG 40); and Commanding Officer of USS BAINBRIDGE (CGN 25).

From 1986 through 1988, he was Commander, Naval Base Seattle, where he was responsible for all naval activities in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. In mid-1988, Admiral Reason shifted to command of Cruiser-Destroyer Group One. Concurrently, he led Battle Group Romeo

through operation in the Pacific and Indian Ocean regions and the Persian Gulf. Admiral Reason reported as Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, following selection to three-star rank. He served in that capacity until assigned as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Plans, Policy and Operations) in August 1994. Upon promotion to four-star rank, he assumed duties as Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in December 1996.

Admiral Reason's awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Navy Commendation Medal, the Venezuelan LaMedalla Naval Almirante Luis Brion Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Honor Medal. He also wears the Navy Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy "E", National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.





**USS CHESTER** (launched 1908):  
The first successful turbine-driven  
ship in the US Navy.

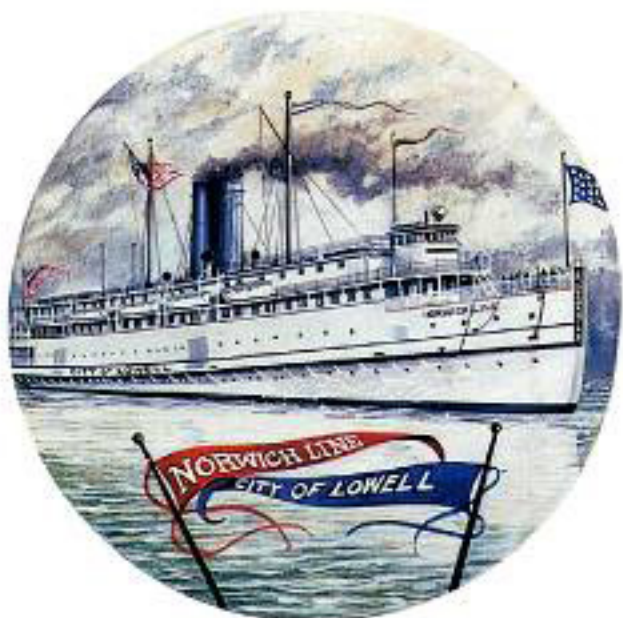


**WINIFRED** (launched 1898):  
The first tramp steamer built in the  
United States.



**A**t Bath Iron Works being the "First" at something has never been out of the ordinary. From the beginning, founder General Thomas W. Hyde worked to establish Bath Iron Works as a leader in the shipbuilding industry. Throughout its one hundred and fourteen years, BIW has carried forward a tradition of designing and building the newest, most advanced concepts of the times. Often, when others would reject an untried design, BIW would accept the challenge, and in doing so gained a reputation for quality and innovation in maritime engineering and construction.

As from its earliest years, when General Hyde set the standard for BIW, so it continues today with the launching of another first...the first Flight IIA Aegis Destroyer, OSCAR AUSTIN.



**CITY of LOWELL** (launched 1893):  
The first steel hulled commercial ship  
built by BIW. She was the fastest  
steamer on Long Island.



**USS MACHIAS** (launched 1891)  
The first steel ship built in Maine,  
and BIW's first Naval contract.